
NEWS From:

Reps. Honda and Tauscher



For Immediate Release
May 14, 2003

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Amendment Urging Airlines to Offer Reduced Air Fares to 1.4 Million in Military Approved in Committee

WASHINGTON, May 14, 2003 — Today, the Aviation Subcommittee of the House Transportation Committee approved an amendment by **U.S. Reps. Mike Honda** (D – San Jose) and **Ellen Tauscher** (D-Walnut Creek) to the Flight-100 Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act. The amendment urges every U.S. airline to offer all members of the U.S. armed forces on active duty reduced air fares comparable to the lowest air fare for ticketed flights, in order for these soldiers to more easily visit their loved ones, and not be penalized for their unpredictable work schedules. Passage of the amendment is a first step. The bill now goes to the full Transportation Committee, then to the full House for Consideration.

“It is our patriotic duty to help our troops reconnect with their families as easily as possible,” said **Rep. Honda**. “Our troops put their lives on the line to defend our democracy and our freedoms; they should not be penalized because their jobs, in defense of our nation, require erratic travel on short notice.”

“America's servicemen and women are the Blue Star Moms’ sons and daughters. In serving our country, they are often unable to plan for their personal lives the way other Americans can. If a mom serving in the military gets a last-minute weekend off duty, I want her to be able to go home to see her family. That's why we introduced the amendment — to urge airlines to make this possible,” said **Rep. Tauscher**.

“The Blue Star Moms are appreciative of the efforts by Reps. Honda and Tauscher. We are hopeful that this will advance through Congress, so we can effect change with the airlines,” said **Liz Taylor-Weber, Vice President of Blue Star Moms**. “We are doing this for the benefit of our sons and daughters in the military; they deserve the opportunity to see their families — and the costs should not be

so prohibitive.”

Since our nation’s founding, the U.S. military has relied on the strength, loyalty and valor of its service members. Their commitment to excellence and to our country has made our nation’s military the finest in the world.

Service in the military often requires service members to be separated from their families on short notice for long periods of time under very stressful conditions. These unique demands of military service often preclude members of the military from purchasing discounted airfares, many of which require 14- or 21-day advance purchase.

In addition to urging the nation’s airlines to offer our men and women in uniform the lowest airfares available, it urges the airlines to offer flexible conditions and terms that allow them to modify or cancel tickets as constantly changing military demands require.

Reps. Honda and Tauscher worked closely with **Blue Star Moms**, an organization based in San Ramon, Calif., comprised of mothers who have sons and daughters in the military. They are rightfully passionate about this cause, because they know first-hand the difficulty their children encounter when purchasing tickets to return home. www.bluestarmoms.org